



National Grid

Paige Graening
Associate Counsel

January 20, 2004

Mary Cottrell, Secretary
Department of Telecommunications & Energy
One South Station, 2nd Floor
Boston, MA 02110

**RE: New England Power Company –
Petition for Zoning Exemption in West Boylston, Massachusetts**

Dear Secretary Cottrell:

New England Power Company (NEP) is proposing to expand its Wachusett No. 47 Substation in West Boylston for system reliability purposes. The expansion will require approximately 18 months to complete. If NEP can obtain all necessary permits promptly, begin construction during the summer of this year, and energize the substation equipment no later than December 31, 2005, certain amounts of this project would qualify for bonus tax depreciation deductions which in turn provide benefits to NEP customers (including municipal light departments, Massachusetts Electric Company and Nantucket Electric Company).

To expedite the Department's consideration of this filing, NEP is submitting together the following materials:

Enclosed for filing are one (1) original and six (6) hard copies of the following materials:

- NEP's Petition for Zoning Exemption in West Boylston, Massachusetts
- The Department's Zoning Exemption Checklist pertinent to this filing
- Pre-filed testimony and exhibits of the witnesses supporting the Petition
 - Dean M. Latulipe, P.E. – Project Need
 - Andres J. Molina – Project Design
 - Daniel McIntyre – Non-Electrical Design and Construction Issues
 - F. Paul Richards – Environmental Issues

A form of notice of a public hearing, for publication in The Worcester Telegram & Gazette

- Appearance of Counsel
- Motion for a Protective Order

The above materials are also captured in Word or PDF formats on the enclosed CD. Also included in this package is a check for \$100.00, payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to cover the required filing fee.

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An additional copy of this filing letter is enclosed, to be date- and time-stamped and returned to me in the attached self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions regarding this filing.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paige Gray". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Paige" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Gray".

Enclosures